Thursday, Oct. 14, 1948

Today I am in the Italian Hospital, Amman, from which I shall be discharged tomorrow after three weeks' treatment by Dr. Tezio, and the ministrations of a nurse who was rather brutal and wanted me to eat the great gobs of food which were brought to me and the much more sympathetic treatment of Sister Helena, who was more gentle, understanding, and efficient – all that a nurse should be.

I start this new journal because my diary and my journal were burned in the little Arab Airways plane, which was shot down by a Jewish plane about 11 A.M. three weeks ago today, Sept 23. We were on the established route from Beirut to Amman and over the Sea of Galilee, looking down on Tiberias, when a long-nosed fighter plane with the Star of David appeared below us. It arose, buzzed in front of us, circled to the rear, and began shooting. In a short time it came at us again with a second burst. There were some incendiary bullets, which made a fire in our left wing. The pilot took us down over Transjordan territory and the Jew gave us another burst as we were about to land. The landing was a splendid piece of craftsmanship on a rocky piece of ground. The tires burst and the nose of the plane went down. Capt. Gordon Nowers, the pilot, broke open the top of the cockpit. I came after him and the other surviving passenger, Abu Naama came after me. My belt caught on some projection; so for a few seconds I was suspended head downward. I shoved away, breaking the belt, my trousers, my shirt and underwear. So I was burned a bit more than the other survivors. The three other passengers had jumped just before the plane landed and they were instantly killed. Two of them I had met and talked with before boarding the plane. They were David Woodford, an English journalist and John Nixon a broadcaster with B.B.C. The other passenger, whose name I remember as something like Aswar, boarded the plane last and I don't remember seeing him.

People from nearby villages gathered quickly. Some of them suspected us of being Jews, but most of them accepted Abu Naama's story. Police officers and Arab Legion officers came out to get our statements and an IPC doctor from one of the villages gave us first aid. Another plane flew over to make a survey and then a 2-seater of the Arab Airways landed. A man from Irbid, whose name I remember as Musa Karim, drove us in his jeep to his house, where he gave us lunch and kept us until transportation arrived to take us to Amman. Capt. O'Brien and Cook of Arab Airways came out and there were two planes, which belonged to the Arab Legion or R.A.F. Maj. Slade of the Arab Legion drove us to the landing field and we were flown into Amman. I was given a suit of white coveralls to take the place of my frontless trousers. Lt. Col. Kirker of the Arab Legion drove me to the hospital in his jeep. Capt. Veale of Arab Airways looked after me personally. Under supervision of Dr. Tezio two nurses dressed my hands and face. As there was no bed available in the hospital I was taken in at the Bishop's School by Miss Halaby. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mc Hearne were sick.

That night I slept hardly at all. The next day Mrs. Kendall and Miss Halaby took me in a taxi to the hospital, where I have a nice room. Many people have come to see me. My most regular callers are Gerald Harding, director of antiquities, and Cyril Twinston-Evans, Manager of Cable & Wireless. Others who have come in more than once are Wells Stabler, american ~~vice~~ consul, Capt. Veale, Mrs. Saunders, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Jenner, George (the carpenter), Miss Halaby, Mrs. Kendall, Mr. J. W. MacCabe of U.N., Maj. Slump, the Misses Blofield, the Col. Mr. [illegible] Um Nagma brought me a lovely box of chocolates before he left for his home in Brumana. Klein came by 3 times, once with Jones of Amer. Red Cross. Mrs. Antonius and Miss Faris came over early in my stay and wanted to get me a private nurse. Later Miss Faris and Omar came over in the School station wagon, bringing me presents in the way of food! Miss Faris stayed from Wednesday until Sunday and came in every day. On Saturday Helen, Benny, Fifi, and Christof came over with Helen's brother driving. They brought me flowers from the garden. On Oct. 12 Ann Putcamp came over in the British legation car. I am promised a place in the UNO plane for Beirut tomorrow.

Wednesday, October 20, 1948

Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Tripoli. On Friday, Oct. 15, I left the Italian Hospital in Amman. After some telephoning it was established that Arab Airways was paying the bill of £57. I took a taxi to the airport, where I arrived at 8:40 and learned that the UNO plane would be an hour late. It came in c. 9:40 with Mr. McCabe and Mr. Shamsee on it and left at 10 with me as the sole passanger. I couldn't tell the nationality of the pilot and the navigator, though they spoke perfect English. We skirted Damascus, crossed Mt. Hermon + Mt. Lebanon, and arrived at the Beirut airport at 11:05. Katherine and Stolzfus were waiting for me with the Stolzfus car. They took me to the Amer ican University Hospital, where I was put into a room with 2 Armenian hernia patients and given a thorough checking over. The weather was pleasantly cool, so that I slept under blankets. On Saturday I was given a bath. I sat on a stool in a tub and the orderly poured warm water over me. Katherine spent a good deal of time with me and brought me a gown, a pair of slippers, a suit of underwear, and an extra shirt. George Scherer, Miss Antippas (bringing flowers), Miss Johnson (bringing chocolates), and Nabih Faris called.

Sunday morning Stoltzfus drove Katherine, Miss Scanlon, and me to Tripoli. Katherine & I ate with the Boyes and the hospital doctors. In the afternoon I was checked in at the hospital in a nice corner room. The hospital is easily the best of the three I have experienced. I am allowed as many changes of pajamas as I need + an unlimited supply of hot water for shaving and bathing.

On Monday Dr. Boyes didn't change my bandage and on Tuesday the bandage was discontinued with everything heald except a patch around the right ear. I shaved, took a shower, and received a haircut. In the evening I put on my glasses for the first time.

Tuesday afternoon Dr. Boyes showed me around the hospital, which elicits my admiration from the standpoint of humanity, religion, and science.

I have been visited by the Edwardses, Dr. Alter, McCade (an IPR gone patient next door), the Dechards, Eric Bishop, his wife, and daughter, and the Calloways (whose daughter was born last week). ~~The~~ Votaw baby was here and so is Mrs. Votaw, who gave birth to a daughter Sunday afternoon. Sunday night I attended the weekly hymn sing at the Boyes home.

I was invited to go to the Dechards for this evening, but we got word that Leber, Dodds, & Clothier were coming up.

Saturday, October 23. The deputation arrived Wednesday night. Dodds & his wife stayed with the Dechards; Leber & Clothier with the Boyses where I visited with them. Thursday morning Leber spoke at 7:30 chapel. The visitors were shown around the hospital. They needed my room for a patient and so moved me to the Boyes home. Edwards drove us around Tripoli before lunch. In the afternoon we visited the boys' school & the girls' school (though I rested at the Dechards while the others were inspecting the latter. At the girls' school we had tea with the faculties of the 2 schools. I met Ellen Marmora's sister, who teaches music. We all, including the Boyses & the Edwardses, had dinner with the Dechards. I slept in the little room of the Boyeses.

Friday I arose early & spent the morning writing letters. In the afternoon I read a bit and took a siesta. Katherine & Henningsen arrived late in the afternoon. Katherine & I were given the big room.

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Saturday morning Honnighausens returned
to Beirut. We attended Arabic chapel.
With a cold I sat around reading
most of the day. Katherine went with
Edwards & reveled in the Tripoli
markets.

Wednesday, October 27.

On Sunday, the 24th, the Decherds
came for us to go to the Arabic church ser-
vice in the girls' school auditorium.
Dr. Boyer gave me a final look and told
me to take it easy for a month. I heard
him denounce one of his old teachers
for taking home a son with Perthes
disease.

We stayed with the Decherds for
the day & spoke in their vespers
to the older boys and girls. The Decher-
ds did some 2 piano work.

On Monday the 25th we took the
8 o'clock bus to Beirut. Mr. Alter
was with us. We came to the Junior
college where Katherine has a splendid
apartment. We rested & I loafed
through the day. Tuesday morning
Katherine went to A S C. I reported
my loss of travelers' checks at the Banque
de Syrie et du Liban & ordered a pair
We then called on Mr. Sands at the
legation & Mrs. Pinkerton — and visited
to the UNO relief headquarters, now
in a building of its own
of glasses from [illegible]. We had
lunch with Daisy — George was in
Nabatiyeh. Stoltzfus had dinner
with the teachers. He and Mrs.
Dodds visited with us

Both of us were bothered with colds during the night, but we got up for breakfast. Some way I got a cut on the scrotum & bled a little. Miss Walker of the British school gave a good talk in chapel. Reception in aft.

Thursday, Nov. 4.

In spite of the news that Truman is elected we slept pretty well and are reasonably happy. On Thursday, Oct. 26 I picked up my new glasses at Mazzarbos. After waiting a while & finding all trams overcrowded I took a taxi to Disaster Relief headquarters for a committee meeting.

Friday evening there was a house party at the college with a few games. We attended. Saturday afternoon Stolzfus drove us, Dong Hill, & Lavinia Kelley to Ainab where Stolzfus has a new house & Hill is thinking of purchasing property. We had taken a typhoid booster shot in a.m. I lay down while the others walked through the hills.

Sunday we went to church, where we saw the Arab & Armenian congregations coming out. A Britisher, Enright preached Baty presided. We then ate at Greenslade's & had tea at West's. I wrote home at night.

Monday Nov. 1 I stuck around most of the day, but my cold hangs on. On Tuesday we went around some during the day and at night we had dinner with the Leavitts. Mr. & Mrs. Dodge McCann (going to

Nippur), Lawson (a stabbile), & Mrs. Mackay were there.

Wednesday was a big day. On the morning I went to Disaster Relief Headquarters where there was mail for me. Met Mr. Goodfellow who took a note to Eyer. Van [illegible] et al took me in car to Normandy. I got two little dictionaries in a book shop. I met Edwin Moll, who is going back to Madison on account of his wife, & talked with him for an hour. In the aft. we went to see Penrose, saw the opening of the A U B museum with ~~Miss~~ Mackay, asked Mr. Laird about Fisher's stuff & found that she knew nothing. I called on Minister Pinkerton & then attended a committee meeting at Disaster Relief. I got back to college in time to hear a lecture by Dr. Mattingly on the American gentleman. The Byerlys had dinner with us. We learned that Truman had been elected in the biggest political surprise that I can remember.

Sunday, Nov. 7

Th. the 6th. Carleton spoke in chapel. Moll didn't come to supper.

On Friday, the 5th, I went a bit too hard. With Katherine I went to USIS at 8. The man who was to show us film wasn't there. I found ~~a~~ biography book showing the N.Y. congressman to be Emanuel Celler, the similarity of whose name kept me from getting back to Amman as Sept. 14 and put me in the calendar for all my trouble. I went to the Normandy for physical reasons, but found no one of interest there so early in the morning. I searched in vain for the French Institute of Archaeology. So at the ABC I purchased a suit of underwear and a blue shirt. At a place in the arcade I bought a brief case for £6. Then I had a talk with Bagerly about his forthcoming commentary on Daniel. I cashed $20 for £7.4. I came home for lunch. My cough was worse but with Katherine & Nejla Debragly I went to see "Mark Twain" [illegible] F. March et al. Three college teachers sat in front of us. There was supper awaiting when we returned at 9. Salmon, pickles, carrots, vegetable marrow, watermelon etc. We both remarked on Mrs. Adams.

On Saturday the [illegible], I remained in bed on Katherine's instructions and under Violet Antippa's expert care. I had 2 pitchers of lemonade, cough syrup, nose drops, sulfa tablets and a boiling pot of stuff for inhaling. I read some more of "7 Pillars of Wisdom" & Katherine read some of Atlantic Monthly to me. I didn't cough so much, but had to miss the retreat of NEST.

Today I am staying in bed. Yesterday we had good letters

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from Walter, Nina, Libbie, & Ooch.

M. Delaghy, who is going away for the day let me have her radio.

The political & military situation remains bad. The Jews are in S. Lebanon and apparently do what they wish in the South.

Katherine read me in a Maynard Williams article (Natl. Geog. Dec. 1946 XC, N. 762) of a British General giving a parable to some Druses:

"Once upon a time a man's house was damaged by his neighbor. All summer long the man complained against the wickedness of the act. Then came the winter rains, which finished the ruin of his house.

Monday, Nov. 8.

Yesterday I spent in bed, finished "7 Pillars of Wisdom," which I think is a great book. I am glad I read it after some of my experiences over here. It helps explain some conditions today.

Katherine went to church, where she says there was an exceptionally good service. Miss Antippa gave me a variety of concoctions & Miss Delaghy loaned me her radio. I got a number of stations, including Nasih at Ramallah.

This morning I feel much better. My head is clear & my cough loosened. I arose for lunch, but stuck around in apt. My correspondence piles up. I prepared a chapel talk.

Tuesday, Nov. 9. I thought I was to talk in chapel, but found out it was Mr. Stoltzfus. I am booked for tomorrow